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Hebrew Union College; Professor F. C. Eiselen, Garrett Biblical Institute. On motion of Professor Breasted, the nominations were approved. Professor Eiselen invited the members to meet next year with Northwestern University and Garrett Theological Institute. On motion of Professor Smith, this was accepted. Professor Wolfenson invited the members to meet with the University of Wisconsin the year following, but no formal motion was made. On motion of Professor Bittenwieser, the branch approved in principle a League of Nations. On motion of Professor Breasted, the branch expressed its thanks to the University of Illinois, to President James, and to the Secretary-Treasurer and Mrs. Olmstead, for the various hospitalities.

A. T. OLMSTEAD,  
*Secretary-Treasurer.*

## NOTES OF OTHER SOCIETIES, ETC.

The London *Times* of January 31 reports a paper read the evening before at the Society of Antiquaries by Captain R. Campbell Thompson on the excavations which he had conducted by orders of the War Office on behalf of the British Museum at Abu Shahrain in Mesopotamia, the ancient Eridu. Captain Thompson, who is connected with the British Expeditionary Force, started work in April, 1918. We quote as follows:

“The results were of the highest importance for Babylonian pre-history, which has hitherto been the subject of scant attention, owing to lack of evidence. Indeed, it is not uncommon to find historians hinting that there was no Neolithic period in Babylonia. However this may be, the very numerous chipped and ground celts and axeheads of stone and the large quantity of flakes, knives, etc., of flint, obsidian, and crystal found at Abu Shahrain show that the earliest inhabitants relied on stone for their weapons, particularly as no metal contemporary with these was discovered. But more important still is the pottery, which is of buff, wheel-turned clay, painted with geometric designs in black, exactly of the same kind as that occurring in the lowest stratum (20 to 25 metres depth) found at Susa by M. De Morgan,

proving that primitive men in both places were of the same character. Writing was unknown to the earliest men of Eridu, but their skill in working clay and stone shows that they were fairly civilized when they migrated thither from whatever may have been their earliest home. Lack of metals compelled them to make even their sickles of baked clay, and these occur so frequently as to show that the early men there depended greatly on cereals for their food, while the freshwater mussel shells appearing in low strata indicate that at that time the Euphrates, which must have flowed close by, was counted as a source of supply. It is probable, therefore, that these are relics of pre-Sumerian man, who occupied the lower part of Southern Mesopotamia before the Sumerian migration thither."